Application Number 09/893,823
Amendment dated May 17, 2004
Responsive to Office Action mailed February 17, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original):   A system comprising:

a database storing label records and associated label data for a plurality of different products manufactured by an organization;

a label record manager that controls the creation and modification of the label records by multiple users within the organization, wherein the label record manager includes a revision control module to track changes made to the label records and the associated label data; and

an output manager that receives input from the multiple users and permits the users to selectively access the label records for printing on label media to be affixed to the different products.

Claim 2 (Original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the revision control module of the label record manager maintains modification logs for the label records and provides change histories for the label records.

Claim 3 (Original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the revision control module of the label record manager generates images of labels from the label records and associated label data, and archives the images with corresponding date and time stamps.

Claim 4 (Original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the revision control module of the label record manager presents an interface by which a user can check-in and check-out a label record for revision.

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Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the database further stores reusable label templates that define one or more fields, and the system further comprises a template manager software module that presents an interface for managing the label templates stored by the database.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Original): A method comprising:
    storing label records and associated label data;
    generating images of labels based on the label records and associated label data; and
    archiving the images with corresponding date and time stamps.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 8, further comprising recording changes to the label records in a database.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 7, further comprising displaying change histories for the label records based on the recorded changes.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 7, further comprising presenting an interface by which a user can check-in and check-out a label record.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a programmable processor to:
    store label records and associated label data; and
    generate images of labels based on the label records and associated label data; and
    archive the images with corresponding date and time stamps.

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Claim 12 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing the processor to:

present an interface by which a user can check-in and check-out a label record; and

record changes to the label records in a database.

Claim 13 (Original): A system comprising:

a database storing a label record having a publication status;

a label record manager that presents an interface for maintaining the label record and setting the publication status of the label record; and

an output manager for printing a label at one of a plurality of output locations based the label record and the publication status.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 13, wherein the label record manager presents an interface by which a user can selectively change the publication status between a draft status and an approved status.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 13, wherein the database includes configuration data defining the plurality of output locations and a plurality of groups of an organization, and wherein the database associates the label record with one of the groups of the organization.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of groups comprising a plurality of business units, and the plurality of output locations comprise manufacturing facilities.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 13, wherein the label record manager includes revision control modules.

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Claim 18 (Original):   A method comprising:

 storing a label record having a publication status;

 presenting an interface for setting the publication status of the label record; and

 printing a label at one of a plurality of output locations based on the label record and the

publication status.

Claim 19 (Original):   The method of claim 18, further comprising storing label templates and

label data, wherein the label records associate the label data with fields of the label templates.

Claim 20 (Original):   The method of claim 19, further comprising:

 storing configuration data defining a plurality of groups within an organization; and

 associating each label template with one of the groups.

Claim 21 (Original):   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a

programmable processor to:

 store a label record having a publication status;

 present an interface for setting the publication status of the label record; and

print a label at one of a plurality of output locations based on the label record and the publication

status.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended):   The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the

instructions cause the processor to store label templates and label data, and wherein the label

records associate the label data with fields of the label templates.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended):   The computer-readable medium of claim ~~19~~22, wherein the

instructions cause the processor to:

 store configuration data defining a plurality of groups within an organization; and

 ~~associate~~associating each label template with one of the groups.

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Claim 24 (Original): A label management software system comprising a database storing configuration data defining an organization having a number of business units and manufacturing facilities, wherein the label management system creates a label record associated with one of the business units, and selectively prints a label at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units.

Claim 25 (Original): The system of claim 24, wherein the database stores configuration data defining a number of packaging levels, and further wherein the label record designates at least one of the packaging levels.

Claim 26 (Original): The label management system of claim 24, wherein the label management system further comprises:

a label record manager to create the label record from a label template and label data; and

an output manager to control the printing of the label upon authorizing a user having access rights to print the label.

Claim 27 (Original): A method comprising:

storing configuration data defining a number of business units and manufacturing facilities;

storing label records and corresponding label data;

associating the label records with the business units;

selecting one of the label records; and

printing a label at one of the manufacturing facilities according to the selected label record and the associated business unit.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 27, further comprising:

storing configuration data defining a number of packaging levels; and

associating each label record with a packaging level.

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Claim 29 (Original):   The method of claim 27, further comprising associating a number of label records to form a set of related label records.

Claim 30 (Original):   The method of claim 29, further comprising graphically illustrating the packaging levels associated with the set of related label records.

Claim 31 (Original):   A system comprising:

a database storing label records and associated archived label images of labels; and

an output module to print a label from a selected one of the label records, wherein the output module includes an interface for presenting the archived label image associated with the selected label record.

Claim 32 (Original):   The system of claim 31, wherein the database further stores reusable label templates that define one or more run-time fields, wherein the output manager displays the run-time fields when printing the label to prompt for the run-time information.

Claim 33 (Original):   The system of claim 31, wherein the database is replicated from a central database to a local database located at a manufacturing facility, and further wherein the output module selectively accesses the central database and the local database.

Claim 34 (Original):   A method comprising:

storing label records and associated archived images of labels;

selecting one of the label records;

displaying the archived label image associated with the selected label record for verification by a user; and

printing a label upon receiving input indicative of the verification.

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Claim 35 (Original):   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

      storing label templates that define one or more run-time fields; and

      displaying the run-time fields when printing the label to prompt the user for the run-time information.

Claim 36 (Original):   The method of claim 35, wherein the run-time information includes at least a batch code and a lot code.

Claim 37 (Original):   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

      replicating the label records and associated archived images from a central database to a local database located at a manufacturing facility; and

      and selectively retrieving the label records and associated archived images from the central database and the local database based on a user selection.

Claim 38 (Original):   The method of claim 34, further comprising generating the archived images from the label records when a user sets a publication status for the label records.

Claim 39 (Original):   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a processor to:

      store label records and associated archived images of labels;

      select one of the label records;

      display the archived label image associated with the selected label record for verification by a user; and

      print a label upon receiving input indicative of the verification.

Claim 40 (Original):   The computer-readable medium of claim 39, further comprising instructions for causing the processor to:

      store label templates that define one or more run-time fields; and

      display the run-time fields when printing the label to prompt the user for the run-time information.

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Claim 41 (Original):   A computer-readable medium containing data comprising:

a label template defining a number of fields, a packaging level and one or more associated business units;

label data including text and graphics;

a label record associating the label data with the fields of the label template; and

configuration data defining one or more remote output locations.

Claim 42 (Original):   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the configuration data defines one or more manufacturing facilities.

Claim 43 (Original):   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising a pass through flag controlling when the label record supercedes a second label record.

Claim 44 (Original):   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the configuration data defines a number of users, and access control rights for the users.

Claim 45 (Original):   A label management system comprising:

a database storing label templates and label records associating label data with the label templates;

a template design tool to create the label templates, wherein the template defines one or more fields;

a graphics design tool to create graphics;

a template manager software module to parse the templates and store for the templates and field information within the database;

a graphics manager to receive the graphics from the graphics design tool and store corresponding graphical data within the database;

a label record manager software module presenting an interface to create label records for associating the graphics and text within the fields of the label template; and

an output manager software module for printing a label based on a selected one of the label records and the associated graphics and text.

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Claim 46 (Original): The label management system of claim 45, wherein the database stores configuration data defining a plurality of groups and a plurality of output locations for an organization, wherein the template manager presents an interface for associating the templates with the groups.

Claim 47 (Original): The system of claim 45, wherein the database is one of a relational (RDBMS), a hierarchical (HDBMS), a multidimensional (MDBMS), object oriented (ODBMS or OODBMS) or object relational (ORDBMS) database management system.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A label management software system comprising:

a database storing configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location; and

a plurality of software modules executing on computing devices coupled to the database, wherein the software modules and presenting an interface by which each authorized users of the groups create label records, and selectively print[[s]] the labels at the corresponding output location for the organizations.

Claim 49 (Original): The label management system of claim 48, wherein the software modules calculate fees for each organization and record the fees within the database.

Claim 50 (Original): The label management system of claim 49, wherein the software modules calculate fees for the organizations based at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee.

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Claim 51 (Currently Amended):   A method of providing a label management service comprising:

storing configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location;

presenting an interface for by which ~~each~~ authorized users of the groups create label records; and

in response to input from the users, selectively printing labels at the corresponding output locations for the organizations.

Claim 52 (Original):   The method of claim 51, further comprising calculating fees for each organization and recording the fees within a database.

Claim 53 (Original):   The method of claim 52, wherein calculating the fees comprises calculating fees based on at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee.

Claim 54 (Original):   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a processor to:

store configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location;

present an interface for by which each organization creates corresponding label records; and

selectively print labels at the corresponding output locations for the organizations.

Claim 55 (Original):   The computer-readable medium of claim 54, further comprising instructions for causing a processor to calculate fees for each organization and recording the fees within a database.

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Claim 56 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 54, further comprising instructions for causing a processor to calculate fees based at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee.

Claim 57 (Original): A label management system comprising:

means for centrally storing label templates and label records associating label data with the label templates;

means for storing configuration data defining a number of groups within an organization and a number of output locations;

means for controlling updates to the label templates and the label records; and

means for printing labels at the output locations.

Claim 58 (Original): The label management system of claim 57, further comprising means for storing configuration data defining a number of packaging levels

Claim 59 (Original): The label management system of claim 57, further comprising means for creating label templates.

Claim 60 (Original): The label management system of claim 57, further comprising means for creating graphics.

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